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PRODUCTION OF LOGS AND BOLTS FOR PLYWOOD, VENEER, PULPWOOD, AND COOPERAGE IN CALIFORNIA, 1948[1]

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While California is recognized as leading all other States in the consumption of plywood, it is beginning to assume new importance as a producer. This is evidenced by a big increase in the production of logs and bolts for plywood and in the number of manufacturing plants in 1948 over 1946.

Production of logs and bolts for plywood in 1946 totaled 15,462 M board feet. In 1948 it was 71,315 M board feet, or almost 5 times as great. Two years ago only two plywood plants were operating in California, both in the Pine region. In 1948 there were 9 plants, 4 in the Pine region and 5 in the Redwood region.

The 5 new plants in the Redwood region accounted for two-thirds of the over-all increase between the two years: 36,554 M board feet of logs and bolts. Practically all was Douglas-fir, but redwood also was cut for plywood to a limited extent in 1948. The 4 plants in the Pine region cut almost an equal amount of logs and bolts for plywood, or 34,761 M board feet, over 80 percent of which was ponderosa pine. Douglas-fir, sugar pine and white fir accounted for the remainder.

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[1] Logs and bolts cut in 1948 for conversion into plywood, veneer, pulpwood, and cooperage, during the year or for storage until the following year. Plywood mills, for example, according to Bureau of Census reports, consumed only 59,744 M board feet of logs in 1948, or about 84 percent of the volume of logs and bolts cut during the year. The plywood equivalent of the 1948 log consumption was 126 million square feet, on a 3/8-inch basis.

* MAINTAINED AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

As not all nine plants operating in 1948 were at full production, the demand for logs and bolts for plywood in 1949 should be much greater, especially for Douglas-fir, redwood and ponderosa pine. In addition, 2 new plants, under construction in the Redwood region in 1949, may operate during the latter part of the year, or start early in 1950.

The volume of logs and bolts cut for veneer in 1948 was not greatly different from 1946. There was a slight drop in both number of plants and volume of logs. In 1946, 12 operators accounted for 32,807 M board feet of logs, while in 1948, 10 operators accounted for 31,875 M board feet of logs. The net decrease in number of operators is due to two conversions to plywood. Veneers produced by these plants are largely used for containers. Species used for veneer in the Redwood region in 1948 were restricted to Douglas-fir, a small amount of sitka spruce, and a very small amount of hardwood; while in the Pine region only ponderosa pine and a little sugar pine were used.

Log production for pulpwood increased from 2,241 M board feet in 1946 to 15,927 M board feet in 1948, reflecting the recent development in that industry. One new operation in 1948 more than compensated for the loss of two of the smaller plants that operated in 1946. Species used were primarily Douglas-fir, with lesser amounts of red and white firs, Monterey pine, and eucalyptus. The latter two, commonly regarded as noncommercial species, were used in the manufacture of roofing felt. They were produced in the form of bolts measured in cords, which were converted to board feet for the purposes of this report.

Log production for cooperage decreased from 11,306 M board feet to 7,256 M board feet between the two years. Only one mill in California is engaged in this activity.

The comparison of log production for each commodity by regions for the two years is presented in Table 1, log production by species is presented in Table 2, and log production by county origin is presented in Table 3.

Table 1.- Production of logs and bolts for plywood, veneer[1], pulpwood and cooperage California, 1948 and 1946

Commodity and region	1948		1946	
	Quantity[2]	No. of mills	Quantity	No. of mills
	M ft.		M ft.	
Plywood				
Redwood region	36,554	5	0	0
Pine region	34,761	4	15,462	2
Total both regions	71,315	9	15,462	2
Veneer				
Redwood region	14,267	3	15,731	3
Pine region	17,608	7	17,076	9
Total both regions	31,875	10	32,807	12
Pulpwood				
Both regions	15,927	2	2,241[3]	3
Cooperage				
Redwood region	7,256	1	11,306	1

[1] Softwood veneers used for containers, except for 1 mill in 1948.

[2] Spaulding Rule in Redwood region; Scribner in Pine.

[3] Includes some production from noncommercial forest land not included in Forest Survey Release Number 6.

Table 2.- Production of logs and bolts for plywood, veneer, pulpwood, and cooperage by species, California, 1948

Commodity and region	No. of active mills	All species	Redwood	Douglas-fir	Ponderosa pine	Sugar pine	White and California red firs	Other softwoods	Hardwoods
		M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.
Plywood									
Redwood region	5	36,554	10	36,544	—	—	—	—	—
Pine region	4	34,761		2,837	28,725[1]	3,191	8	—	—
Total both regions	9	71,315	10	39,381	28,725	3,191	8		
Veneer									
Redwood region	3	14,267[2]	—	13,941	—	—	—	323[3]	3[4]
Pine region	7	17,608	—	—	17,482	126	—	—	—
Total both regions	10	31,875	—	13,941	17,482	126		323[3]	3[4]
Plywood & Veneer									
Both regions	19	103,190	10	53,322	46,207	3,317	8	323[3]	3[4]
Pulpwood									
Both regions	2	15,927	—	9,700	—	—	3,080	1,056[5]	2,091[6]
Cooperage									
Redwood	1	7,256	921	5,973	—	—	227	135[3]	—

[1] Includes small amounts of Sugar pine not reported separately.

[2] In addition 5,552 M ft. of logs from Curry Co., Oregon, were exported to California mills (Douglas-fir 5,415 M, hardwoods 137 M).

[3] Sitka spruce.

[4] Maple.

[5] Monterey pine (converted from cords to M ft.)

[6] Eucalyptus (converted from cords to M ft.)

Table 3.- Production of logs and bolts for plywood, veneer, pulpwood, and cooperage by county origin, California, 1948

County	Plywood	Veneer	Pulpwood	Cooperage	Total
	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.
Calaveras and Tuolumne[1]	2,712	360	—	—	3,072
Del Norte	9,535	127	—	—	9,662
Eldorado and Placer[1]	—	1,816	—	—	1,816
Humboldt	24,916	12,609	—	7,256	44,781
Lassen and Modoc[1]	21,418	13,897	—	—	35,315
Mendocino and Sonoma[1]	2,103	—	9,700	—	11,803
Monterey and Santa Cruz[1]	—	1,531	1,056	—	2,587
Plumas and Sierra[1]	1,246	—	3,080	—	4,326
San Luis Obispo and Ventura	—	—	2,091	—	2,091
Shasta and Trinity[1]	9,385	1,535	—	—	10,920
Total all counties	71,315	31,875	15,927	7,256	126,373

1/ Combined to avoid disclosure of individual operations.